

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

The allowance of claims 86, 97-113 and 119-122 is acknowledged. The Examiner had stated that the prior art of record fails to teach that the number of possible time slots varies from one specified group to another; the proper art of record fails to teach a method of skipping one level of the search tree as recited in claim 86; and the prior art of record fails to teach a method of selecting one time from the first number of time slots for the first subset and the second of time slots for the second subset.

Claims 87-96 had previously been amended, in an Amendment filed November 7, 2005, to depend on claim 86 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 1-85, 114-118, and 123-124 had previously been cancelled, in the Amendment filed November 7, 2005, to expedite prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Upon further consideration, Applicant has decided to reintroduce these claims and traverse the rejection. These claims have been renumbered as new claims 125-132.

Claims 85, 87-96, 114-118, 123 and 124 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,500,640 to Snodgrass et al. in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

The Examiner is taking the position that Snodgrass et al. teaches Aloha techniques, and therefore it would be obvious to combine Snodgrass et al. with AAPA. The Examiner refers to Col. 4, lines 17-18 which states, "After a commander station transmission, several, one, or zero responder stations may simultaneously respond." However, Snodgrass et al. does not teach Aloha techniques. Aloha networks, among others, are mentioned in Col. 2,

lines 47-51 of Snodgrass et al., but then Snodgrass et al. criticizes such existing popular protocols in Col. 2, lines 52-53 of Snodgrass et al.

The Aloha method refers to a simple communications scheme in which each transmitter in a network sends data at any time when there is a frame to send. If the frame successfully reaches the receiver, the next frame is sent. If the frame fails to be received at the destination, it is sent again.

The fact that Snodgrass et al. allows several, one, or zero responder stations to simultaneously respond does not mean that Snodgrass et al. is teaching use of Aloha techniques. This is not the definition of Aloha techniques. The definition of Aloha requires that a transmitter send data at any time when there is a frame to send. If the frame successfully reaches the receiver, the next frame is sent. If the frame fails to be received at the destination, it is sent again.

Col. 12, lines 55 to Col. 14, line 54 of Snodgrass et al. discloses a much more complex scheme than simple Aloha. Instead of a responder just automatically retrying if a frame is not received, Snodgrass et al. has the commander station determine the identity of each responder station to be able to later establish uninterrupted communication.

Further, in Snodgrass et al., a responder station will not transmit unless it has first received a command to which it determines it must respond. Using this prerequisite, the commander station can try different groups, as shown in Fig. 10, until the identity of each responder station is established. Then the commander can send commands addressed to individual responder stations. This is contrary to Aloha in which a responder station would automatically transmit whenever it had a frame to transmit, as opposed to waiting for a command.


Therefore, Aloha is not taught in the Snodgrass et al. reference. Therefore, it would not be an obvious modification to use slotted Aloha instead of pure Aloha.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 87-96 and 125-132, in addition to the previous allowance of claims 86, 97-113, and 119-122 is requested.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in the event that the next office action is one other than a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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